

at a great price and will continue to cost our society—and these children—dearly.

Mr. Speaker, I urge Members of the House to join me and co-sponsor the Act to Leave No Child Behind.

HONORING FORMER
CONGRESSMAN PAUL G. ROGERS

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2001

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize former Congressman Paul G. Rogers who will be honored on June 12th by the dedication of the Paul G. Rogers Plaza at the National Institutes of Health. This occasion is a tribute to Paul's accomplishments in the fields of health and the environment.

Paul G. Rogers was elected to Congress in 1954 where he represented South Floridians living in Palm Beach and Broward Counties for twenty-four years. Paul was a well-respected Member of Congress who was known as a man of integrity. He is recognized and has been widely honored for his sponsorship of numerous pieces of legislation in the areas of health and the environment including the National Cancer Acts of 1971 and 1977 and the Clean Air and Water Act. This legislation has saved the lives of countless Americans and improved the quality of life for all Americans.

As Chairman of the House Committee on Health and the Environment, Paul used his broad knowledge and deep understanding of health and environmental issues to build a consensus of opinion in favor of Congressional action in these areas. In fact, he is often referred to as "Mr. Health." Paul was always more interested in results than in partisan politics and therefore was able to move widely supported bipartisan legislation. His accomplishments are a legacy that demonstrates what can be done in Congress if we work together for the public good. Today I have the privilege of representing parts of Paul's district and am trying to follow the trail that he blazed in these important areas.

The Paul G. Rogers Plaza at the National Institutes of Health honors this outstanding American, and my friend, Paul Rogers. I hope that the work done at this Plaza will be worthy of the name it has been given.

SOJOURNER TRUTH

HON. TOM SAWYER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2001

Mr. SAWYER. Mr. Speaker, on May 29, we will celebrate the legacy of the famed abolitionist and feminist, Sojourner Truth. She was born Isabella Baumfree, as a slave. She escaped slavery and adopted the name Sojourner Truth when she began preaching across the nation.

It was in Akron, Ohio, at the Second Annual Women of Ohio Convention on May 29, 1851, that she delivered her powerful "Ain't I a

Woman?" speech. It is appropriate to honor her work and her legacy on the 150th anniversary of that remarkable speech. It is especially appropriate to do so in the city where she delivered it.

A friend of mine, the late Faye H. Dambrot, a leading advocate of rights for women, equality, and justice, wrote a testimonial to Sojourner Truth and her famous speech, which I am honored to submit for the RECORD.

Born the slave Isabella Baumfree in 1797 in Ulster County, New York, this articulate woman with her commanding voice and imposing stature began her career by preaching and lecturing against slavery after the New York emancipation laws of 1827 were passed. Deeply religious and mystical, she chose the name Sojourner Truth to reflect her commitment to travel widely and spread the truth to her audiences. During her extensive journeys through the North and Midwest, she spoke of having been beaten, raped, and forcibly separated from her children and other loved ones under slavery.

In addition to her ministry and ardent abolitionism, Sojourner soon embraced the cause of women's rights, knowing well the double yoke of racism and sexism which bound black women. She worked to raise money for the North during the Civil War, helped emancipated blacks find jobs and housing in Washington, D.C., and even struggled against segregation by her insistence on riding public street cars.

She supported herself through the sale of her autobiography, *My Narrative*, and counted Abraham Lincoln, Lucretia Mott, Susan B. Anthony and Frederick Douglass among her friends. Sojourner Truth continued her life of struggle and agitation until ill health forced her retirement. She died near Battle Creek, Michigan on November 26, 1883.

Sojourner was not a welcome speaker at Akron's Women of Ohio Convention, many women present feared the cause of abolitionism would be detrimentally linked to the suffrage struggle and urged the chairwoman, Frances Gage, to prevent her addressing the crowd. The assembled local clergymen were swaying those present with their declarations about the natural superiority of man, Eve's "original sin," the manhood of Christ, and the deference and privilege.

She intoned, "Well children, where there is so much racket there must be something out of kilter . . . But what's all this here talking about?"

"That man over there say that women needs to be helped into carriages, and lifted over ditches, and to have the best place everywhere. Nobody ever helps me into carriages, or over mud-puddles, or gives me any best place!"

She drew herself up to her full height, and with a voice like rolling thunder continued. "And ain't I a women? Look at me! Look at my arm! . . . I have ploughed, and planted and gathered into barns, and no man could head me! And ain't I a woman? I could work as much and eat as much as a man—when I could get it—and bear the lash as well! And ain't I a woman? I have borne 13 children, and seen them most all sold off to slavery, and when I cried out with my mother's grief, none but Jesus hear me! And ain't I a woman . . . ?"

"That little man in black there, he say women can't have as much rights as men, be-

cause Christ wasn't a woman! Where did your Christ come from? From God and a woman! Man had nothing to do with Him.

"If the first woman God ever made was strong enough to turn the world upside down all alone, these women together ought to be able to turn it back, and get it right side up again! . . ."

Frances Gage tells her recollection of the crowd's reaction. She says, "Amid roars of applause, she returned to her corner, leaving more than one of us with streaming eyes, and hearts beating with gratitude. She had taken us up in her strong arms and carried us safely over the slough of difficulty, turning the whole tide in our favor. I have never in my life seen anything like the magical influence that subdued the mobbish spirit of the day, and turned the sneers and jeers of an excited crowd into notes of respect and admiration. Hundreds rushed up to shake hands with her, and bid her Godspeed on her mission of testifying again concerning the wickedness of this here people."

Mr. Speaker, in standing up for her beliefs, Sojourner Truth became a role model for all Americans, not just women or people of color. Sojourner Truth was the living embodiment of the basic American tenet that each and every individual has intrinsic worth.

As historian David McCullough reminds us, history didn't have to happen the way it did. History is created by the actions of far-sighted men and women like Sojourner Truth.

ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN
HERITAGE MONTH

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2001

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, May is the month our nation honors Asian Pacific American Heritage. As the Representative of a very ethnically diverse community, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize those in my Congressional district who come from Asian descent.

About 11 million Americans come from Asian or Pacific Island descent. Many Asian immigrants came to this country as laborers in the agriculture and transportation industries. First enduring harsh working conditions in the earlier part of the nineteenth century, many Asian Pacific Americans have now become successful entrepreneurs, teachers, entertainers, and technological professionals. In fact, our U.S. Congress has been home to 32 elected Members of Asian ancestry since 1903.

I would like to acknowledge the achievements of a specific young woman in my district who has made a great contribution to the United States Air Force, the City of Baldwin Park, and the Filipino community. Lieutenant Venus C. Rivera is the first person from Baldwin Park with Filipino American parents to graduate from the United States Air Force Academy. This Dean's List honor student will be trained as a jet pilot upon her graduation this month. I know she will continue to serve as an inspiration to all young Asian Americans in the United States.